

ABSTRACT

This invention is a method of preserving without any chemical additives *Ceratomia catalpae* larvae (Catalpa worms) for use as fish bait by cleansing, blanching, and subsequently freezing them in sealed, moisture and vapor limiting bags. The larvae is first chilled as to limit mobility, then picked clean and rinsed with water. The larva is then blanched in boiling water, immersed in cold water to limit cooking and dried. With the use of sterilized tongs, the larvae is then placed in individual plastic bags and frozen within another bag to limit freezer burn. The individual bags of Catawba worms can be thawed out and the worms fished within months after they are harvested with minimal deterioration.